

REMARKS

Claims 1-20 are pending in the subject application. The Examiner has rejected claims 1-20. No new matter has been added.

Claim Rejection - 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 1-20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,621,930 (hereinafter referred to as "SMADJA"). SMADJA was filed on August 9, 2000 and issued on September 16, 2003. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection with respect to claims 1-20. In particular, Applicant respectfully submits that this rejection is improper, since SMADJA does not qualify as prior art for the subject application.

The subject application was filed on March 23, 2001 and claims the benefit of U.S. Provisional Application Serial No. 60/192,236 (hereinafter referred to as "the provisional application"), which was filed on March 27, 2000. The subject application is entitled to the filing date of the provisional application, since all requirements for obtaining the benefit of that earlier filing date are satisfied. In particular, Applicant respectfully submits that the subject matter defined by claims 1-20 is adequately supported by the disclosure of the provisional application. Support for claims 1-20 can be found in the provisional application at, for example, page 11, line 7 to page 14, line 3; Appendix A; and Appendix C. In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully submits that the subject application predates the filing date of SMADJA and that SMADJA cannot be properly applied as prior art against the subject application.

Applicant also respectfully disagrees with the Examiner's statements regarding the obviousness of converting an initial document format into a common document format and requests that the Examiner provide evidence to support these statements should the rejection be maintained.


In sum, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1-20 are in a condition for allowance, which is respectfully solicited. If the Examiner believes that any of the claims is not in a condition for allowance, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned to resolve any outstanding issues.

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Respectfully submitted,
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